

December 10th 2021

Lara Kritzer  
Community Preservation Program Manager  
City of Newton Planning & Development Department  
1000 Commonwealth Ave., Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Kritzer,

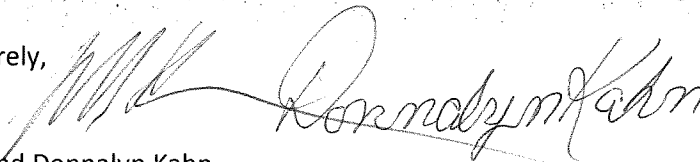
I am writing in support of the New Art Center's (NAC) CPA pre-proposal request for funding to conduct a feasibility study on the Church of the Open Word at 19 Highland Ave, Newtonville. CPA funds would allow the New Art Center to conduct a feasibility study to determine if the Church of the Open Word facility allows for much needed organizational growth to serve more residents, students and community partners.

NAC offers everyone, at all levels of ability, exceptional opportunities to make, exhibit, view, think about and talk about art. Founded in 1977, the NAC is the cultural cornerstone for visual art in Newton and the local region. Having enrolled tens of thousands of adults, teens and children in art making and art education programs, the NAC is also an important local employer, with staff of 10 and faculty of 50+.

Moving across the street from the new Senior Center would also offer new opportunities for seniors in Newton. Being right across the street would allow seniors to move easily between one facility and the other taking advantage of the best of both locations. Moreover, rehabilitation, revitalization and activation of the Church of the Open Word property would preserve an iconic local landmark, reducing vandalism and loitering on the property and creating a cultural destination that would benefit local businesses as well as residents. In full disclosure, we live just down the street from the Church and LOVE all the changes happening in Newtonville making it a vibrant area to live.

Thank you for your consideration of this important and exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,



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